

Copy  
for Mrs. Tarbell  
JST

September 14, 1916.

My dear Mr. President:

You have been so over-burdened with care and responsibility during recent weeks that I have deferred bringing up the proposed interview with Miss Tarbell. But now that the Maine election plainly shows that we shall have need to make effective use of every Progressive influence, it seems to me the matter is now worthy of your personal consideration at the earliest opportunity.

The enclosed letter from Miss Tarbell will in part explain her position. In a previous personal conference with her she stated frankly that she was sure a magazine article written by herself, and giving merely her personal views, as a result of her interview with you, would not be worth doing; and she added that Mr. Lorimer of the Saturday Evening Post would probably not accept it, because his readers are not specially interested in her (Miss Tarbell's) personal views.

On the other hand, she said very earnestly that if you would grant her a personal interview and permit her to actually quote you, she was convinced that Mr. Lorimer would take it eagerly and she felt sure she could write an interview which would be positively effective in influencing voters, because her Chautauqua lecture tour throughout the middle West during the whole summer had given her insight into many of the points which independent voters, men and women alike, are now debating in their minds.

She also said she knew that up to this time you had declined to permit any reporter or magazine writer to actually quote you and hence you might feel that you could not now make an exception in her case. But what she tells me of her observations in the middle West makes it evident to my mind that it would certainly be worth your while to talk with her personally and, in the light of the facts, then decide about having her quote you.

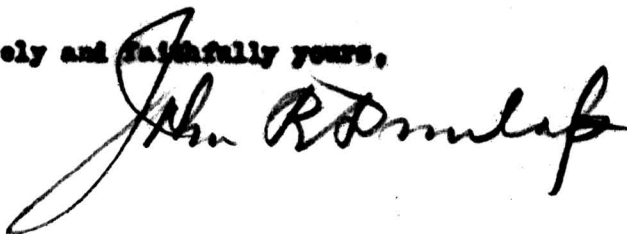
I have been closely studying Miss Tarbell's work for over twenty years past, and I am convinced that no other reform writer exerts stronger influence over the minds of independent and progressive voters; she first captivated a great audience with her Lincoln papers, and she did a telling work in the Standard Oil papers which followed. If now you can grant her an authorized interview to go before the 2,500,000 readers of the Saturday Evening Post, I venture to say that it would actually convert more wavering voters than any other single piece of work of the kind.

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that could possibly be done.

Awaiting your further advice upon the subject, and  
expressing my profound sympathy for the sorrow and anxiety which  
have lately been added to your great burden of public responsibility,  
I am,

Sincerely and faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John R. Doolittle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JRD-EO

To President Wilson,  
President's Cottage,  
Elberon, N. J.